

Bootsole Project Migratory Bird Species Report

Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District

Prepared by: /s/ Timothy C. Keesey
Timothy C. Keesey
TCK Ecological Consulting

Date: 3-26-2021

Reviewed by: /s/ Rachel Bauer
Rachel Bauer
District Wildlife Biologist
Plumas National Forest – Beckwourth Ranger District

Date: 03/26/2021

Migratory Bird Species Report

Introduction

Under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Forest Service is directed to “provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives.” (P.L. 94-588, Sec 6 (g) (3) (B)). The January 2000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) Landbird Conservation Strategic Plan (USDA 2000), followed by Executive Order 13186 in 2001, in addition to the Partners in Flight (PIF) specific habitat Conservation Plans for birds and the January 2004 PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan all reference goals and objectives for integrating bird conservation into forest management and planning.

In late 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USDA Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds was signed. In 2016, the USDA Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to an extension of the MBTA MOU and currently they are working on an additional extension. The intent of the MOU is to strengthen migratory bird conservation through enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as other federal, state, tribal and local governments. Within the National Forests, conservation of migratory birds focuses on providing a diversity of habitat conditions at multiple spatial scales and ensuring that bird conservation is addressed when planning for land management activities.

The Bootsole Project, located on the Beckwourth Ranger District, proposes management that will implement direction contained within the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (PNF LRMP) (USDA 1988), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) (USDA 2004). Each of these planning efforts have addressed and considered opportunities to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats at the project level through the adherence of Forest Plan Standard & Guidelines (MOU Section C: items 1 and 11 and Section D: items 1, 3, and 4). The Forest Plan Standard & Guidelines incorporated into the Bootsole Project ensure the maintenance of key habitat components (e.g. snags, large downed wood), as well as provide seasonal protections, land designations or treatment buffers for key breeding habitats (e.g. Limited Operating Periods, Spotted Owl PACs and Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas).

The Plumas National Forest utilizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008 Birds of Conservation Concern for the Sierra Nevada as its framework for analyzing effects to migratory birds. Of this list of eleven (11) birds, project level reports (i.e. Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation (BA/BE), Management Indicator Species Report (MIS)) address nine (9) of the species either directly or by using a surrogate species that utilize the same or similar habitat attributes. The following table highlights how and where the eleven migratory birds are addressed directly or by using a surrogate species.

Table 1. Analysis of Migratory Birds for the Bootsole FHP

Birds of Conservation Concern (Sierra Nevada - BCR 15) Species (Scientific Name)	Species Status*	Forest Service Sensitive Species (S) or Management Indicator Species (MIS)	Project Level Report (BA/BE or MIS)	Critical Habitat component or threat as defined by Sierra Nevada Bird Conservation Plan (PIF)	Category for Project Analysis**
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	SE, USFWS : BCC	See Below	N/A	Bodies of water in open areas with protected cliffs, canyons and ledges for cover and nesting	3
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	USFS : S, SE, USFWS : BCC	Bald Eagle (S)	BA/BE	Designated as a non-land bird by DeSante	1
Black swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)	USFWS : BCC	See Below	N/A	Wet cliff, waterfalls	1
California spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>)	USFS : S, USFS : MIS, DFG : SSC, USFWS : BCC	California Spotted Owl (S)	BA/BE	Depends critically on old growth	3
Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Stellula calliope</i>)	USFWS : BCC	Willow Flycatcher (S)	MIS MIS BA/BE	Open Forested habitats, and moist habitats on the East Slope	2
Cassin's Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	USFWS : BCC	California Spotted Owl (S)	BA/BE	Depends critically on old growth	3
Flammulated Owl (<i>Otis flammeolus</i>)	USFWS : BCC	Hairy Woodpecker (MIS)	MIS MIS	Depends critically on oaks or oak woodlands, Loss of snags	3
Lewis' woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	USFWS : BCC	Hairy Woodpecker (MIS)	MIS	Loss of snags	3
Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	DFG : SSC, USFWS : BCC	California Spotted Owl (S) Hairy Woodpecker (MIS)	BA/BE MIS	Utilize late successional/old growth forest, but does not depend on it critically, Loss of snags	3
Williamson's sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	USFWS : BCC	Hairy Woodpecker (MIS)	MIS	Loss of snags	3
Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii brewsteri</i>)	USFS : S, SE, USFWS : BCC	Willow Flycatcher (S)	BA/BE	Depends critically on montane meadow habitat	2

*Species Status: FE = Federal Endangered, FT = Federal Threatened, FP = Federal Proposed, FC = Federal Candidate, USFS: S = U.S. Forest Service - Sensitive, USFS: MIS = U.S. Forest Service - Management Indicator Species, SE = State Endangered, ST = State Threatened, DFG: FP = State Fully Protected, DFG: SSC = State Species of Special Concern, USFWS: BCC = U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern, SOI = Species of Interest.

**Category 1: Species whose habitat is not in or adjacent to the aquatic or terrestrial wildlife analysis areas and would not be affected by the project.

Category 2: Species whose habitat is in or adjacent to the aquatic or terrestrial wildlife analysis areas, but would not be either directly or indirectly affected by the project.

Category 3: Species whose habitat would be either directly or indirectly affected by the project.

Most of the species whose habitat would be either directly or indirectly affected by the Bootsole Project, identified as Category 3 in Table 1, are addressed in the Bootsole Project BA/BE and/or MIS report and will not be discussed in this report.

Refer to the Bootsole Project Biological Evaluation for more information regarding the proposed action and environmental effects to wildlife, forestwide standards and guidelines (S&Gs), best management practices (BMPs), and project-specific design criteria.

The black swift and peregrine falcon are the only two species from Table 1 not covered in the BE/BA or MIS report. The black swift, identified as Category 1 above, will not be further discussed because the habitat factors for this species, namely large, sheltered rock cliffs with water present will not be either directly or indirectly affected by the project; therefore, the project will not affect this species or its habitat. The peregrine falcon, identified as Category 1 above, will not be further discussed because the habitat factors for this species, namely bodies of water in open areas with protected cliffs, canyons and ledges for cover and nesting will not be either directly or indirectly affected by the project; therefore, the project will not affect this species or its habitat. The nearest known peregrine eyrie is more than 5 miles from the project area. The remainder of species whose habitat would be either directly or indirectly affected by the Bootsole FHP, identified as Category 3 in Table 1, are addressed in the Bootsole BA/BE and/or Bootsole MIS report and will not be discussed in this report.

Literature Cited

- CalPIF 2000. Version 1.0. The draft grassland bird conservation plan: a strategy for protecting and managing grassland habitats and associated birds in California (B. Allen, lead author). Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
- CalPIF 2002. Version 1.0. The draft coniferous forest bird conservation plan: a strategy for protecting and managing coniferous forest habitats and associated birds in California (J. Robinson and J. Alexander, lead authors). Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>.
- CalPIF 2002. Version 2.0. The oak woodland bird conservation plan: a strategy for protecting and managing oak woodland habitats and associated birds in California (S. Zack, lead author). Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
- CalPIF 2004. Version 2.0. The Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan: a Strategy for Protecting and Managing Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Habitats and Associated Birds in California (J. Lovio, lead author). PRBO Conservation Science, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
- CalPIF 2004. The riparian bird conservation plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian associated birds in California. California Partners in Flight. http://www.prbo.org/calpif/pdfs/riparian_v-2.pdf
- CalPIF 2005. Version 1.0. The sagebrush bird conservation plan: a strategy for protecting and managing sagebrush habitats and associated birds in California. PRBO Conservation Science, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
- CalPIF 2009. Version 1.0. The Desert Bird Conservation Plan: a Strategy for Protecting and Managing Desert Habitats and Associated Birds in California. California Partners in Flight. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
- Luensmann, Peggy. 2010. Falco peregrinus. In: Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Available: www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/animals/bird/fape/all.html [2018, December 18].

- Rich, T. D., C. J. Beardmore, H. Berlanga, P. J. Blancher, M. S. W. Bradstreet, G. S. Butcher, D. W. Demarest, E. H. Dunn, W. C. Hunter, E. E. Iñigo-Elias, J. A. Kennedy, A. M. Martell, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, K. V. Rosenberg, C. M. Rustay, J. S. Wendt, T. C. Will. 2004. Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ithaca, NY.
- Siegel, R.B. and D.F. DeSante. 1999. Version 1.0. The draft avian conservation plan for the Sierra Nevada Bioregion: conservation priorities and strategies for safeguarding Sierra bird populations. Institute for Bird Populations report to California Partners in Flight.
- USDA 1988. Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (PNF LRMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. CA.
- USDA 2000. Landbird Strategic Plan, FS-648. Washington, D.C.
- USDA 2004. Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. Vallejo, CA. January 2004.
- USDA and USDI 2008. Memorandum of Understanding between the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory birds. FS Agreement #08-MU-1113-2400-264. Washington, D.C.
- USDI 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia. December 2008.